

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

January 14, 2003 Public Hearing

April 3, 2003

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The Portable Power Tools rule has been rewritten and reorganized for clarity and ease of use for the employers and employees. Hand and Portable Powered Tools and Other Hand-Held Equipment rules, in chapter 296-24 WAC, Part H-1. Part H-1 will be repealed concurrent with the adoption of chapter 296-807 WAC.

The department received public comment on the following sections and modified the proposed amendments to these sections as indicated below. All other sections proposed for amendment did not receive comment and are adopted as proposed.

AMENDED SECTION: WAC 296-807-16005, Make sure equipment meets minimum design and construction requirements.

Comment:

The provisions of the new rules should apply to power lawnmowers manufactured on or after the effective date of the rule (August 1, 2003), not just the effective date.

Department response: Agree. The wording was revised to show that the rules apply to power lawnmowers manufactured on or after the effective date of the rule (August 1, 2003). Additionally, the date August 1, 2003 was inserted to assist users in determining if this rule applies.

AMENDED SECTION: WAC 296-807-16035, Use ride-on mowers safely.

Comment:

The limitations specified in WAC 296-807-16035(3) (Mow up or down a slope if the slope is greater than fifteen degrees) should be deleted. Some manufacturer's operating instructions allow operation on slopes greater than fifteen degrees and there are some conditions where longitudinal mowing of a slope may be unsafe and/or impractical. WAC 296-807-16015 requires the employer to make sure the operator understands and follows instructions before starting the mower and WAC 296-807-16020 requires that the manufacturer's instructions for safe use of the equipment be followed. These requirements cause WAC 296-807-16035(3) to not be needed.

Department response: Agree. WAC 296-807-16035(3) have been deleted.

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AMENDED SECTION: WAC 296-807-18055, Make sure flanges are in good working condition.

Comment:

It is not clear in reading the second bulleted item (Replace or remachine any flange with a mounting surface that is:...) if any or all of the conditions stated would require the flange to be replaced or remachined.

Department response: The second bulleted item of WAC 296-807-18055 has been revised to eliminate confusion. The item now reads: "Replace or remachine any flange with a mounting surface that has any of the following problems:"